(ii) A Development Credit Agreement for the National Leprosy Eradication Programme for an amount approximately equivalent to Rs. 302 crores from the World Bank has been signed on 4th February 1994.

(iii) Agreed minutes of Final Negotiations for obtaining financial assistance for the National Programme for Control of Blindness for Rs.554 crores have been signed with World Bank on Ist February, 1994.

(iv) The World Bank preparatory Mission has recommended a TB Control Project for implementation in five States and ten metropolitan cities and the project report is under finalisation. A pre-appraisal mission from the World bank is expected in the next few months.

(v) In order to intensify the anti-malaria activities, a Task Force was appointed by the Government of India in 1992. Detailed data and statistics have been collected by the Directorate of the National Malaria Eradication Programme for preparing the Project document.

(vi) A Health Systems Project in Andhra Pradesh to upgrade secondary level hospitals has been posed to World Bank for financial assistance with an estimated expenditure of about U.S. $180.00 million. Discussions with the Pre-appraisal mission have been completed successfully.

Therefore the question of delay in the release of funds in respect of these projects does not arise at all.

Population and Development

270. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which apeared in the Hindustan Times of 4th February, 1994 quoting that about 360 million couples have access to family planning services whereas 120 million couples do not and that nearly half a million women die of pregnancy-related causes in the Indian sub-continent and sub-saharan Africa; and

(b) if so, what concrete draft programme of action Government of India propose to place before the ensuing International Conference on Population and Development, 1994 to be held in Cairo and at the Final Preparation Committee III meeting to be held in New York in April, 1994, keeping in view India's needed development as well as environmental policies and the present available resources for the purpose with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) These figures pertain to global levels.

(b) India would emphasize at the Conference the importance of interlinkages between high rates of population growth, poverty, under-development and sustained economic growth. The international community must increase the flow of concessional financial resources for promoting economic growth and development particularly of low income developing cuntries.

दि टेलीग्राफ में प्रकाशित समाचार

271. **श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी:**
श्री वी० नारायणसामी:
श्री बिशम्भर नाथ पांडे:

क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 6 फरवरी, 1994 के "दि टेलीग्राफ" में "वूम्बस् रिमूव्ड फ्राम रिटार्डेड वूमेन" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है, यदि हां, तो इसमें कितनी सच्चाई है;